

Serial No. 10/627,984

Attorney Docket No. 26A-008

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-9 (Canceled)

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10. (Currently amended) A device for protecting an occupant seated in a rearmost seat of a vehicle, wherein the rearmost seat has a backrest and a seat portion extending from the backrest toward the front of the vehicle, the device comprising:

an impact determining device for determining that an impact has been applied to the vehicle or that there is a possibility that an impact will be applied to the vehicle; and

a movement restricting mechanism, which functions to restrict the rearward movement of the occupant seated in the rearmost seat based on the determination result of the impact determining device, wherein the movement restriction mechanism ~~includes~~includes:

an air bag, which is deployed between the ~~rearmost seat backrest~~ and a rear window glass of the vehicle, and the air bag includes a thickness restriction mechanism for restricting the thickness of the ~~air bag~~ air bag; and

a tension applying mechanism, which applies tension to the air bag, the tension being required for restricting the rearward movement of the occupant seated in the rearmost seat.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The device according to ~~claim 11~~ claim 10, wherein the non-inflated air bag is accommodated in an upper rear end portion of the vehicle in a folded state,

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wherein the air bag has tension applying portions on left and right end portions of the air bag, wherein the tension applying portions are coupled to portions of the vehicle in the vicinity of both sides of the rear window glass, and wherein, when the air bag is deployed, the tension applying portions apply a predetermined tension to the air bag.

13-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) An air bag device for an occupant seated in a rearmost seat of a vehicle, wherein the rearmost seat has a backrest and a seat portion extending from the backrest toward the front of the vehicle, the air bag device comprising:

an air bag;

an inflator for supplying gas to the air bag to deploy the air bag between the ~~rearmost seat~~backrest and a rear window glass of the vehicle; and

side rigid portions, which extend in the vertical direction at the left and right sides of the air bag to improve the rigidity of the air bag when the air bag is deployed.

27. (Currently amended) An air bag device for an occupant seated in a rearmost seat of a vehicle, wherein the rearmost seat has a backrest and a seat portion extending from the backrest toward the front of the vehicle, the air bag device comprising:

an air bag accommodated in an upper rear end portion of the vehicle in a folded state ~~when the air bag is not deployed;~~

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an inflator, which supplies gas to the air bag, wherein, when the gas is supplied to the air bag, the air bag is unfolded downward to be inflated between the ~~rearmost seat~~backrest and a rear window glass of the vehicle; and

an unfolding direction controlling mechanism for controlling the unfolding direction of the air bag such that the air bag is unfolded along the rear window glass.

28. (Withdrawn) The air bag device according to claim 27, wherein a rolled portion formed by rolling the non-inflated air bag functions as the unfolding direction controlling mechanism, and wherein, when gas is supplied to the air bag, the air bag is deployed as the rolled portion is unrolled along the rear window glass.

29. (Withdrawn) The air bag device according to claim 28, wherein, when the rolled portion is unrolled, the rolled portion generates a force to cause the air bag to approach the rear window glass.

30. (Withdrawn) The air bag device according to claim 27, wherein the unfolding direction controlling mechanism includes a guide mechanism, and wherein, when the air bag is deployed, the guide mechanism guides both sides of the air bag along vertical rims of both sides of the rear window glass.

31-34 (Canceled)

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35. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the air bag is inflated to be unfolded downward from the upper rear end portion and along the entire rear window glass in the lateral direction, wherein the tension applying portions are part of the air bag and are secured to the vehicle at the middle position of the rear window glass in the vertical direction.

36. (Previously presented) ~~The device according to claim 10~~ A device for protecting an occupant seated in a rearmost seat of a vehicle, the device comprising:

an impact determining device for determining that an impact has been applied to the vehicle or that there is a possibility that an impact will be applied to the vehicle; and

a movement restricting mechanism, which functions to restrict the rearward movement of the occupant seated in the rearmost seat based on the determination result of the impact determining device, wherein the movement restriction mechanism includes an air bag, which is deployed between the rearmost seat and a rear window glass of the vehicle, the air bag including a thickness restriction mechanism for restricting the thickness of the air bag, wherein the thickness restricting mechanism includes a closed portion formed by partially joining opposing portions of the air bag.

37. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 36, wherein the closed portion is one of a plurality of closed portions.

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38. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 37, wherein the air bag has a plurality of cells defined by the closed portions and inflated by gas supplied thereto.

39. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 36, wherein the closed portion is one of a plurality of closed portions extending in the vertical direction.

40. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 39, wherein the air bag has a plurality of cells defined by the closed portions, the cells being inflated by gas supplied thereto to extend in the vertical direction.

41. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 26, wherein each side rigid portion includes a vertical cell, wherein each vertical cell is inflated by gas supplied from the inflator to extend in the vertical direction.

42. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 27, wherein the non-inflated air bag is accommodated in an upper rear end portion of the vehicle in a folded state, wherein the air bag is inflated to be unfolded downward from the upper rear end portion and along the entire rear window glass in the lateral direction, wherein the unfolding direction controlling mechanism is constructed by securing the left and right sides of the air bag to the vehicle at securing points, the securing points being located in the vicinity of both sides of the rear window glass at the middle position of the rear window glass in the vertical direction.